



## First United Methodist Church

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May 13, 2020

Dear First Church Family,

"It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood!" On our daily walks, Betsy and I are celebrating spring! Birds are singing. The grass is green. Trees are blossoming. Flowers are blooming. Neighbors are tilling up the soil to do their spring planting. Even as we stay safe and stay home, we enjoy the gifts of our wonderful Maker!

As some parts of our Commonwealth have begun to ease some restrictions, and others may soon follow, it feels like we may soon be moving into a new season in our community and the church as well. This week, there are several important things I want to share with you.

- Representatives from Administrative Board, Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, Staff-Parish Relations Committee and church staff are meeting to discuss our next faith steps toward reopening the church. To ensure the health and safety of everyone, we anticipate that this will take place over **a season of gradual steps**. We are committed to **clear communication** so that you know what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how you can be involved.
- During this season, we continue to **worship together** each Sunday ([www.fumchurch.com](http://www.fumchurch.com)). **This Sunday, May 17**, we continue our series, "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood." We've been discovering that Mister Rogers never shied away from talking with children and adults about difficult topics. This week's sermon is entitled, "Anything That's Mentionable Is Manageable," and will focus on how to deal with loss in light of Jesus' promises in John 14.
- Each Wednesday from 10 am to 12 pm, we are collecting personal items in our church parking lot. **Mission Central** will distribute these items to families in our area in need of them. We welcome your donations of laundry detergent, hand towels, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, band aids, liquid concentrate household cleaner, travel size shampoo, deodorant and soap, blue/black pens, pencils.
- You may also bring donations of food to our **Little Free Pantry**. Food for local families distributed by **New Hope Ministries** is also being collected at Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ on Wednesdays from 10 am to 2 pm. Please contact Lori Hoffnagle ([outreach@fumchurch.com](mailto:outreach@fumchurch.com)) for additional **Service Opportunities**.
- Our attendance at online opportunities for **spiritual growth** continues to grow! To participate in a group, or to arrange for your class or group to meet online, please contact Tina Eaton ([adultministry@fumchurch.com](mailto:adultministry@fumchurch.com)).
- Parents and students are also staying connected through **youth and children's activities**. Contact Dawn Fisher and Anna Harris ([kidscount@fumchurch.com](mailto:kidscount@fumchurch.com)) or Lisa Aronson ([uthrock@fumchurch.com](mailto:uthrock@fumchurch.com)) for more information.
- If you know someone that does not have computer access to view worship, they can still receive our **Sunday worship services on DVD or via their phone**. To connect with worship, receive the **May/June issue of the Upper Room**, or a **facemask**, or if you have a **prayer request**, please contact Janice Bowen ([wecare@fumchurch.com](mailto:wecare@fumchurch.com)) or the church office at (717) 766-4611.
- Thank you for **your generous financial support** of our church's ministry. Your gifts through the mail, the church website, or electronically, are making a big difference in a time when people need the good news of Jesus Christ more than ever before. If you need assistance in your giving, please contact Ellen Hill ([office@fumchurch.com](mailto:office@fumchurch.com)).

Jesus said, *"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don't be troubled or afraid."* (John 14:27) Dear friends, may the peace of Christ be with you!

Have a beautiful day!  
Pastor Denny

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*Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors*